

Message Text

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SUBJ: CYPRIOT PRESS HIGHLIGHTS -- JANUARY 26-FEBRUARY 2

1. SUMMARY: MAJOR THEMES IN GREEK CYPRIOT PRESS WEEK OF JANUARY 26 - FEBRUARY 2 WERE: IMPENDING RESUMPTION OF INTERCOMMUNAL TALKS ON CYPRUS, JOINT NATIONAL COUNCIL-COUNCIL OF MINISTERS MEETING JANUARY 28 AND RENEWED CALLS FOR PURGE OF PRO-JUNTA AND PUTSCHIST INDIVIDUALS FROM GOVERNMENT POSITIONS. TURK CYPRIOT PRESS CONTINUES TO SCORE MAKARIOS, EVINCE PESSIMISM OVER TALKS, AND WORRY ABOUT COMMUNITY'S CONTINUING ECONOMIC DIFFICULTIES. END SUMMARY.

2. GOC RELEASED STATEMENT JANUARY 26 THAT "GOVERNMENT HAS EVIDENCE WHICH DISCLOSES THAT TURKS...WILL BE SETTLED SOON IN NEW CITY FAMAGUSTA." THIS WAS FOLLOWED SAME EVENING BY FOREIGN MINISTER CHRISTOPHIDES' SPEECH CHARGING "REAL AIM OF TURKEY IS PARTITION OF ISLAND." GREEK CYPRIOT PRESS WAS NOT UNCLASSIFIED

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SLOW TO PICK UP AND RUN WITH THIS PESSIMISTIC ASSESS-

MENT OF CURRENT SITUATION. PHILELEFTHEROS, WHICH REFLECTS MAKARIOS' VIEWPOINT, WROTE JANUARY 27: "FOREIGN MINISTER HAS COMPLETELY CORRECT UNDERSTANDING OF EFFORTS NEEDED TO SOLVE CYPRUS PROBLEM ... THEREFORE, PROSPECTS FOR TALKS REMAIN DIM." PAPER EXPRESSED NO SURPRISE AT ANNOUNCEMENT OF TURKISH PLANS AND RENEWED CALL FOR INTERNATIONAL DENUNCIATION. PRO-CLZFIDES' AGHON PREDICTED "UNLAWFUL PLANS OF TURKISH CHAUVINIST LEADERSHIP WILL NOT BEND CYPRIOT HELLENISM...CHRISTOPHIDES HAS DISCLOSED REAL AIMS OF ANKARA...THERE IS NOTHING TO JUSTIFY OPTIMISM." SAME DISHEARTENED ATTITUDE PREVAILED THROUGHOUT WEEKQB PRO-LYSSARIDES' TA NEA JANUARY 30 HEADLINED PREMATURELY "TALKS TO BE POSTPONED DUE TO UNACCEPTABLE TURKISH TERMS." MORE ACCURATELY, COMMUNIST HARAVGHI SIMPLY NOTED "UNCERTAINTY PREVAILS ON RESUMPTION OF TALKS DUE TO DENKTASH'S INSISTENCE ON ACCEPTANCE OF "REALITIES".". FEBRUARY 1 PHILELEFTHEROS THREATENED "LONG STRUGGLE FOR WHICH WE MUST PREPARE DUE TO TURKISH INTRANSIGENCE." PAPER CONTINUED: "THIS IS NOT WHAT WE WANTED BUT WHAT HAS BEEN IMPOSED ON US BY TURKS. WHEN TURKS CHANGE, SO WILL WE."

3. JOINT COUNCIL OF MINISTERS/NATIONAL COUNCIL MEETING JANUARY 28 STIMULATED SPECULATION ON GREEK PROPOSALS FOR VIENNA MEETING. PHILELFTHEROS JANUARY 29 REPORTED "FULL IDENTITY OF VIEWS AMONG MEMBERS." THIS WAS PROMPTLY DENIED BY PRO-ENOSIS MAKHI AND ANTI-CLERIDES' ANAGENNNISIS, BOTH OF WHICH INDICATED CONSIDERABLE DIFFERENCE OF OPINION ON GREEK PROPOSALS. PRO-CLERIDES' WEEKLY ALITHIA FEBTUARY 2 ACKNOWLEDGED "REMAINING UNCERTAINTY WHETHER TALKS WILL BE HELD OR POSTPONED" IN VIEW OF ONGOING PROCUDURAL QUESTIONS. NOTING CONTINUING DIFFERENCES AS TO GREEK PROPOSALS, PAPER CASTIGATED ALIKE LYSSARIDES' SUPPORTERS WHO INSIST ON LONG STRUGGLE AND THOSE WHO WILL NOT FACE PRESENT REALITY. PAPER OBSERVED "FINALLY THERE ARE REALISTS WHO DO NOT DISREGARD FAIT AMCOMPLIS"AND SEEK "AN HONORABLE SETTLEMENT WHICH WILL ALLOW US TO SAFEGUARD WHATEVER CAN STILL BE UNCLASSIFIED

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SAVED." IN WEEK'S MOST SIGNIFICANT EDITORIAL, ALITHIA OBSERVED THAT EVERY TIME IN LAST EIGHT YEARS CYPRIOT PROBLEM APPROACHED SOLUTION, GREEK CYPRIOT LEADRRSHIP (MAKARIOS) TORPEDOED IT AT LAST MINUTE AND CONTINUES "TO VACILATE...TO EVADE... TO POSTPONE." PAPER COMPLAINED "FOR EIGHT YEARS WE HAVE BEEN REPEATING SAME THING WITHOUT COMING TO ANY RESULT AND WITHOUT OUR UNFORTUNATE PEOPLE BEING TOLD WHAT WE REALLY WANT."

4. CALL FOR PURGE OF PRO-SAMPSON AND PRO-JUNTA GOVERNMENT PERSONNEL, WHICH HAS BEEN RATTLING IN LEFTIST PRESS FOR SEVERAL MONTHS, WAS TAKEN UP BY NEARLY ALL PAPERS LAST WEEK IN WAKE OF APPEARANCE OF NICOS SAMPSON AT A MEMORIAL SERVICE FOR GRIVAS JANUARY 25. LYSSARIDES' TA NEA JANUARY 27 PREDICTABLY CALLED ON GOC TO TAKE ACTION AGAINST ALL THOSE WHO "BY WORD OR DEEDS SUPPORTED THE COUP," INSISTED THEY BE "TRIED NOT ONLY FOR THEIR PRESENT ACTIONS BUT FOR THEIR ACTIVITIES DURING THE COUP AS WELL." COMMUNIST HARAVGHI CONDEMNED GRIVAS' MEMORIAL SERVICE AS IT "OFFERED OPPORTUNITY FOR FASCISTS TO RAISE THEIR HEADS AGAIN." PHILELEFTHEROS TWICE EDITORIALIZED CALLING ON MAKARIOS TO ZISOLATE PEOPLE WHO DESTROYED THIS COUNTRY' AND "NOT TO ALLOW THEM TO COMPLETE THEIR TASK." AGHON TO DATE HAS AVOIDED SUBJECT ON EDITORIAL PAGE BUT ALITHIA FEBRUARY 2 CAUTIONED THAT "UNDER PRETEXT OF PRUGE WE ARE TRYING TO CREATE NEW FORMS OF DISPUTE."

5. TURK CYPRIOT PRESS HAS FOCUSED ON EFFORTS TO RESUME NEGOTIATIONS, CONTINUING ECONOMIC DIFFICULTIES, COVERAGE OF THE GARRULOUS MR. DENKTASH, AND AN UNFOLDING SMUGGLING SCANDAL WITHIN TFSC (SPTL). ALL PAPERS CHARGE GREEKS WITH TRYING TO DEPART FROM BRUSSELS FRAMEWORK FOR TALKS BY POSING PRECONDITIONS; CONCLUDE THAT NO SETTLEMENT POSSIBLE AS LONG AS GREEKS DO NOT SEE REALITIES AND MAKARIOS IS STILL AROUND; ARGUE THAT NO TERRITORIAL CONCESSIONS POSSIBLE; AND THE ENOSIS REMAINS A TRHEAT AND BIREGIONAL FEDERATION THE ONLY ACCEPTABLE SOLUTION. INDEPENDENT BOZKURT HARPS ON COMMUNITY'S SERIOUS ECONOMIC DIFFICULTIES. ANTI-DENKTASH HALKIN SESI UNCLASSIFIED

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BLASTS ALLEGED ECONOMIC AND ADMINISTRATIVE BUNGLING OF DENKTASH ADMINISTRATION AND CHARGES, IN COLORFUL HYPERBOLE, THAT THINGS ARE NOW SO BAD THAT TURK CYPRIOTS ARE RELIVING THE DARK DAYS OF SULTAN HAMIT. CRAWFORD

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